THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): (a) According to the statistics available from the State Government, the number of foreign tourists who visited Assam during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Total number of fore'gn tourists
1997	723
1998	631
1999	795

(b) The estimates of foreign exchange are not available State-wise. However, the estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Estimated foreign exchange earnings (Rs. in crores)
1997	10725.64
1998	11950.78
1999	13041.81

Setting up of Heritage Hotels

5462. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of heritage hotels set up by Government and private sector;

(b) the details of their location; and

(c) the details of the incentives provided to the private sector to set up heritage hotels?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): (a) and (b) Presently there are 62 hotels under the Heritage category which are on the approved list of the Ministry of Tourism. Majority of these Heritage Hotels are located in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Himchal Pradesh and are mostly in the private sector.

(c) Various incentives are available to the approved Heritage Hotels and Heritage Hotel Projects,which include Income Tax Exemption, Interest Subsidy, import of special items, concessional custom duty on imports.

Through a recent notification Ministry of Commerce has made tourism service providers including Heritage Hotels eligible for recognition as Export House etc. on earning specified amount of free foreign exchange and entitling them to such benefits as specified in chapter 12 of the Handbook of Procedures (Vol. I) of the Ministry of Commerce.

Opening of New Tourist Offices Abroad

5463. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to open a new Tourism office in South Korea, Moscow, Israel and other places in the World;

(b) whether Government have done any activity analysis of tourism offices abroad; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): (a) Government have already opened tourism offices in Moscow and Tel-Aviv. South Korea is currently being looked after by tourism office in Tokyo.

(b) and (c) Activity analysis of Tourism offices is an ongoing process.

Development of tourist spots

5464. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any National Action Plan or Policy for the development of tourism spot centres in the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of fund earmarked and released for the development of tourism sector in the State during the last five years and till-date, year-wise;

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): (a) and (b) National Action Plan for Tourism was formulated during 1992 for development of tourism in the country as a whole. Main features of the National Action Plan were:

— Development areas on a selective basis for integrated growth along with marketing of destinations to ensure optimal use of existing infrastructure.